

Oliver Stone with James DiEugenio – “If JFK Were Alive Today”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0ynBm9uAAM> (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0ynBm9uAAM>)

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The Future of Freedom Foundation hosted one of the most fascinating, important, and relevant conferences in our 27-year history.

Entitled “The National Security State and JFK,” the conference was held on Saturday, June 3, 2017, at the Dulles Airport Marriott in Northern Virginia.

Oliver Stone, the noted Hollywood producer and director, received an Academy Award for Best Director for his war drama *Platoon*, which received the Best Picture award. Stone won another Best Director Oscar for the second movie of his Vietnam War trilogy, *Born on the Fourth of July*, which was followed by *Heaven & Earth*. His other movies include *Salvador*, *Wall Street*, *Natural Born Killers*, *Money Never Sleeps*, *The Doors*, *Nixon*, *W.*, and *Snowden*. He wrote the screenplay for *Midnight Express*, a movie that received three Academy Awards. He has also produced and directed many documentaries, including Showtime’s *Untold History of the United States*. In 1991, he directed the movie *JFK*, starring Kevin Costner and Donald Sutherland, which posits that the U.S. national-security establishment orchestrated the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The movie led to the passage of the *JFK Records Act*, which mandated the disclosure and release of tens of thousands of assassination-related records and documents of the military, the CIA, the Secret Service, and other federal agencies.

Jim DiEugenio is the author and editor of three books on the assassinations of the sixties. They are the second edition of *Destiny Betrayed* (2012) , *Reclaiming Parkland* (2016), and *The Assassinations* (2003). For seven years, from 1993-2000, Jim was also the co-editor of what many considered the finest journal on the subject, *Probe Magazine*. From 2003-2016 he edited the web site, *Citizens for Truth about the Kennedy Assassination*. Today, he is the editor and publisher of the web site *Kennedysandking.com*.

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you all of our stone the producer and director received an Academy Award for Best Director for his war drama *platoon* which received the best picture award stone won another Best Director Oscar for the second movie of his Vietnam War trilogy *born on 4th of July* which was followed by *heaven and earth* his other movies include *Salvador* *Wall Street* *Natural Born Killers* *money Never Sleeps* *The Doors* *Nixon* *W* and the most recent great movie *Snowden* he wrote the screenplay for *Midnight Express* a movie that received three Academy Awards he also produced and directed many documentaries including *showtimes untold history of the United States* in 1991 he directed the movie *JFK* starring Kevin Costner and Donald Sutherland which pauses at the u.s. national security establishment orchestrated the assassination of President John F Kennedy the movie led to the passage of the *JFK Records Act* which mandated the disclosure and release of tens of thousands of assassination related records and documents of the military the CIA the Secret Service and other federal agencies and most recently he has just put together what I think promises to be a fantastically interesting fascinating documentary that consists of a four-part series coming out on June 12th that is a four-part one-hour series on Showtime night after night where in which Oliver Stone interviews Vladimir Putin so aalverson the format's going to be Oliver Stone's going to give us some

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Oliver Stone's going to give us some preliminary comments and then he's going to be seated for a conversation just spontaneous with Jim and which I will moderate please welcome Oliver Stone thank you and I'm very happy James Jim could be here I specifically asked Jacob to bring him because I there are many good books but aside recently from the James Douglas book I'm a big fan of Jim's book terrible title but it's called destiny beat race reclaiming car parkland reclaiming I thought is reconfirming because reclaiming parkland and I if you haven't read it how many people have read it just curious yeah a minority certainly it's just a really well-done book and it's so important because it reminds us after so many years he's a third-generation researcher I guess you'd call him yeah third three or three and a half tell me uh what don't make me even older okay well reclaiming parkland the reason this dodo-bird wrote it was because there was a movie that no one remembers called parkland that was being made at the same year and he was getting ready for this huge public reaction to the movie he thought it would be the antidote to JFK and he wanted to cut that off because he knew a lot about that movie and he knew a lot about parkland the hospital so it was a it was the wrong title and the publisher has tried but nothing doing I keep mentioning it we are going to get it republished in the spring I think Susan or this year I'm really working on it's the same publisher who's doing the Putin

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the same publisher who's doing the Putin interviews as well as Snowden skyhorse Press in New York Tony Lyons great a great a fighter for dissent Jim's book goes into that primary evidence that everybody forgets you know which is a day of and it's the most convincing argument that they was not in fact there was not one iota of that evidence holds up and it was from the beginning the very the clues were there but we were there was no computer to do our work for us but the the clues were there and what they missed it and perhaps Mark Lane might have seen it in his orgs and there was one a few people but it just it's so difficult to argue when people have seen Martians in the room or something like that you cannot argue you cannot so this whole thing comes from his basic misconception and Jim traces that evidence so beautifully from the bullet to the autopsy to all little details please please read it and it's well worth it people care and they still care and I you know as we come to this moment in 19 wherever we are we're early 2017 obviously you know I stumbled into this Ellen Rea and Cuban Havana and Wayne Ray remember Ellen Rea anybody Sheridan press great person and her husband Jim bill bill Rae doeshot doeshot yes bill shap wonderful people they she gave me this book Jim Garrison's trial she had covered it in sixty seven eight nine rather and she gave it to me in the elevator in Havana in 1987 I thought she was another lunatic she wouldn't stop talking seven as a socialist elevator seven floors in Havana takes about twenty minutes so I got a listen to this good exact telling me garrison garrison I take the book on the trail of the assassins nice little okay I'll read it someday I read it about three four

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someday I read it about three four months later and by god it's a hell of a thriller that's where it starts it's a costa-gavras film and of course as we get deeper and deeper as we always do until you get the honey pot comes up and grabs right and it just gets in some it's a labyrinth it's a maze it was certainly a delight as a mystery fan but the deeper you go it becomes clear that there's a huge huge misdoings in this matter and as the years go by I feel that more and more strongly particularly as I see the world today and the American government everything that I pretty much everything that I felt could happen did happen in the sense that we had this crazy election in 2000 and then several more crazy elections culminating right now but the truth is that the deep state as we have come to know it we didn't know it then it was Dale Scott came up with the thought but that thing that organ is so apparent it should be apparent to every American who's awake and at its most dangerous point we're there the threat has been laid down to it and if you can't see them the markings of a secret state at the intelligence agencies doing this kind of leaking is kind of work behind the scenes to destroy the credibility of the Russians as well as the president of the the president who they many of them hate so this is an interesting game is going on it's a similar game to what Jim Garrison ran into in

1969 at that trial admit that Elaine ray presented me with he kept saying that you cannot in this day and age 69 go up against the covert intelligence apparatus like the CIA because no one in the in the real world understands how they work and how they manipulate and how they think and they

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manipulate and how they think and they have a lot of money and they have a lot of media with him corporate media I feel sorry I mean I love Jim but it was it was hard because he had a case but it was a as Jim knows it was a case that had it was a minimum to go to court but he got to court but by the time he got there two three years in so many people were missing dead changed their testimony and the CIA as we now know had an active file on garrison out to D legitimate and completely he to hell and I'm happy one of the best things I read in my life was in a sense meet this old man who had never given up fighting had just written this new book 20 years after the trial still believed in the right thing he did and to turn his story into a actually a successful film that was seen all over the world whole much to the ire of the original people would spend so much money in time destroying his reputation I was venomously attacked by many people who were personal friends of Clay Shaw and wrote me nasty pieces he was obviously a very articulate cultivated man but he and a theater goer and all that so he had all the you know the New Yorker crowd was a big fan of Clay Shaw little did they know everything everybody Edward Epstein one could do a movie about all the people around the case the you know if we believe as the establishment keeps telling us these intelligence agencies that Russia really hacked this election and Russia's everywhere and the fault of all that we really have lost it and this is this is really what's going on and it's so disturbing to me you know anything about it you've got gray McGovern's here zinnia right

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[Applause] and and cryptologist like Jeffrey Jeffrey Carr who's really up there is top of the top of the game they've written so many articles now I mean this is it's it's Alice in Wonderland because this is the first time I've seen such a major investigation going on where there was no evidence usually you have some shred of evidence it's almost as if we're going to investigate and we're going to find a shred of evidence so this is a bizarre logic and it's backed by all our media all the muscle of our country and the belief in the military system that we despite all this we need 58 billion dollars more on the budget to keep going with our military state this is what exactly what Kennedy warned us against what's one of the great stories of JFK was that he was in the military none of these new guys have been in and they and as a result the Clintons and the Obamas and the Bush's they fold very quickly to what the military tells them it's disgusting what the Donald Trump would say things like and you will see I will give you the best generals and they have the most medals and there's it's almost like their toy set for him it's shiny new generals are going to run the wars as opposed to the Obama type people who try to control them I am going to give the American people the bang for the buck next time we have a war he said we're going to win it he said that now you know the implications of that in a nuclear nuclear situation it's the end of the earth many people here believe in nuclear winter I do and I know Mike my co-author from untold history Peter kuznick who's not here would tell you about nuclear winter at length it's really scary because we don't know what Trump's going to do from day to day

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Trump's going to do from day to day whatever if no one knows he's what he's going to do he doesn't know depends on his dream the night before and I think it's admirable that's great theater my god we're seeing the best reality television we can and he's living up to it the problem is when he felt he senses the ratings will fall off in the interest level will follow how does he keep the show going you know who can he fire what what can he do to keep the interest he's very aware of interest as opposed to the old kind of boring Eisenhower presidency where people work you know the guy played golf today and he shot or whatever it was and they liked Ike because he doesn't do anything and they liked that he was a do-nothing president not really but that's what they thought at the time and everything was backwards everything was backwards even then I mean JFK came in on the basis that he was going to make this country stronger because we were failing in

Cuba and of course we know that's all backward and he knew better but he said it for election reasons and Nixon was pictured as a soft years of do-nothing eisenhower type candidate so our history is these mistakes and they're huge mistakes but now they through and they've thrown in the president and said that he's a dupe of the Russians he's a Manchurian Candidate this is something that Burt Lancaster would think up in in the one with Frederick March 7 days in seven days and they one of my favorite movies when he accuses Frederic March uses you know a straight straight shooting honest American he accuses him of being a dupe practically a spy for the Russians because he wants a nuclear treaty peace treaty in the 1960s that was the basis of the Kennedy Khrushchev deal huh what is wrong with peace what's wrong with date on I can't figure out but here we have everybody in the establishment the respectable establishment telling us

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the respectable establishment telling us that any kind of deal with the Russians is bad this is unbelievable never heard it in the 1960s 50s it was always some peace party of some kind and scared me in the election of 16 where is the peace party where are the peace people who there's nobody that represents officially that position Sanders was very weak on foreign policy very weak at least he said a few common-sense things but since then he's reduce he's joined the herd the establishment that's right down the road here this is truly a crisis time but people think like this and I and you know we're all making our I'm older so I'm not as worried but I'm I'm certainly sad to have lived through this whole cycle from 1940s to now and to see the same repetitions anybody who was in in Vietnam or in Korea recognizes the same kind of talk the same kind of splits America first America patriotic and all that stuff we heard it and then we heard it again on Iraq 1 & 2 and by the way Iraq 1 was a huge mistake but we can't wait nobody pays enough attention to that but there ought to is definitely in a debacle so here we are with Afghanistan dragging on and the lies and the this destruction of Libya was a gigantic mistake the refugee situation in Europe I mean this is serious serious destabilization we have completely destabilized the West and then we hold up our hands and say Russia did it I mean Russia is destabilized every election is behind everything this is shameful and it's a lack of what it is is you can't lack of responsibility it's like a child that breaks something in the room and says he did it you can't do that but that's what they're doing it's almost as if there is no game clam game

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almost as if there is no game clam game plan as many of you have suggested some of you I read your articles very smart very perceptive have suggested that the United States goal is it much more intelligently defined one as being owning Eurasia owning the proprietary rights to that part of the world because it's the richest part of the world that at least makes some kind of sense and if we put it out in the open Cheney did as much as anyone I Richard Cheney but if that is our goal we're in for good luck good luck because we're in for a lot of turbulence and a lot of chaos it is my you know and we build up the military we have can we spend 10 times more than the Russians twice three times as much as a Chinese and we how can we ten times more than the Russians and we're scared of them Dunford says we're the greatest threat to the United States has he ever thought of the reverse possibility if you're a Russian and you were surrounded by the amount of missiles and ibms and Polaris's and submarines from Alaska all the way to the Lithuania Latvia the borders and certainly in Czechoslovakia and Romania outside Romania and Poland Poland the poles have done it again many they've waited 300 years to strike with Brzezinski but now that he's dead I have strong I have somehow fears that Poland will once again be the initiator of a third world conflict so we have a lot to think about I'm going to go sit down now with Jim what I wish you'd ask him some questions as well as me okay we use a moderator today well I say moderator but actually

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today well I say moderator but actually I could I would be very happy just to see a conversation but these two guys who I know have been friends for a long time but Oh however I'm curious Oliver I'm curious I'll start out just with a question to you that I think it's safe to say that you and Donald Trump do not share the same economic or political philosophy and and yet it seems like you're able to draw a distinction between them a

man whose policies and politics that you you have no respect for but yet draw this distinction between this whole anti-russia crusade and the war that the national security state seems to be waging against Trump you comment on that that's what I did look to me uh you know I you have to realize it everything I think well you get out of there take it out you have to realize it and please I have a disclaimer to make everything I think feel do is as a dramatist this is my initial my first role is I am a dramatist so of course I look for the story that looks a narrative and certainly one of the things that attracted me to JFK was the possibility of a great narrative here and I tried to put that into the film the hunt for the clues of who would kill him and why so story I think story so I am NOT a political analyst who sits like a McGovern is who does his work and does reads all the boring papers no I well but I have to say about mr. Putin that he does read everything he reads the he's very dry he reads a lot does a lot of research good people do that unfortunately Trump doesn't read we know that he really doesn't I mean several people have confirmed that now it's it's unbelievable he is got a attention deficit disorder that fascinates me as a dramatist is that he's he's such a

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dramatist is that he's he's such a beautiful traumatization of a child of a child really playing with toys and the whole point of his life is in a sense being credited being applauded stand up be proud and all the parents everyone knowing who he is if he's not if he walks into the room and no one knows who he is he would he'd sulk and he'd retreat quickly when you see the wife not touching his hand when he reached out for her you feel sad for the guy and you and people have told me stories of him at his New Year's Eve party in my go to Margot Del Mar whatever it's called up saying Mar del Mar del Lago I was there that's a boy that's an amazing story it's like go in a national park where get in as long as you pay and you can see the president and he mixes with a crowd all that it's but it's like a museum it's a strange place it's like he should be dead but it's mummys tomb and he's still there it'll be a to him one day the I got off track but the point is was what was I saying I'm saying in Russia you know oh yeah New Year's it's just the image of him sitting there as a clock struck midnight a friend of mine told me it was that he was the only one at the table they were all kissing dancing the music was playing auld lang syne nobody was sitting with him I think there's a lot of truth in loneliness and I think in his loneliness he doesn't want to be alone I do think you bury yourself in constant deal-making constant talking to people having some action which you know if you know real estate people I'm in New Yorker they are really the the deal makers they get into a room they don't talk look at you they're immediately looking around who's here who can they talk to who can they get ahead with how to make a buck and I I find that real estate people are really most of them have no morality at all probably what's

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have no morality at all probably what's behind some of this [__] excuse me I won't say [__] unless it what's what maybe a lot but frankly it wouldn't surprise me if at the end of the day with two years of investigation and how many millions of pages of [__] would they'd realize that maybe he did get some money from a Russian mobster for a loan of this for that big deal you know that happens in real estate it's not a big thing to understand but you know you can always talk about influence you influence an election correct you know everyone influences an election but we all know that that AIPAC the Israeli Lobby has a hell of a lot more influence in America than any Russian could possibly have if he was working that if they put all the money and the influence is a big word so it was hack anyway back to your question what rabbit just yes tell me tell me a little bit about this cute and how you came to don't say to Putin sorry I didn't know that of how you got to this interview stage and maybe tell us a little bit about I can I can't do that we're here for I can't that's coming up on Tuesdays really state secret I got to keep it under wraps I would just say that you know please have a chance watch it it sets a mood it's one it's really it's an audacious thing for me to do it to do a four-hour documentary I know that but I had 25 30 hours of material but making it flow giving it a reason for me it was a like unwrapping an onion or a Russian doll there's always another thing inside so you listen to him he answers a question early in the first hour in the third hour you may we're here welcome back to it and he'll say it differently and it's the verbiage it's very important to understand you begin to feel him you begin to understand how he thinks and I think that's the role of a good of a good it's not really a documentary as

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a good it's not really a documentary as much as a hadees' only one on one one on one to be a conversation talk over four hours in different places no it's subtitled but he's very understandable in his body language and I will make a point I think it's far better to keep him in his native language because once you dub in the United States we've seen this again and again you get the voice of the actor now if you pick an actor who sounds like a football coach which is what they do with mr. Putin you get the Charlie rosy phenomenon when he speaks it's harsh you know it sounds like he's peremptory and he's autocratic but that's not all the way he speaks so you get his voice and the interpreter we had we were very lucky was a young man who was brilliant and was able to interpret most of it pretty accurately on the spot he's praying by the train by the by the Kremlin Jim I think yeah question come on that's not this that's not what it's about it's about listening to him okay let's do something unorthodox and take some questions go ahead yeah Jim I was going to ask you a question okay sure now he mentioned Oliver mentioned seven days in May yeah what was what was the reaction I mean tell us the story of seven days in May where what Kennedy the role that kennedy played in this and what happened there it's really funny was I talked about Henry Kissinger at North Canada really like movies you know he saw a lot of them okay and he really really liked this book seven days in May and he liked it so much that he knew the director John Frankenheimer and he said why aren't you guys shooting here okay I'll get everybody out of here for a weekend okay and you can come in and shoot the interiors you know at the White House that's how much you want to see the movie get done all right and so yeah he

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movie get done all right and so yeah he really liked the message of the picture that the military you know really thought that they could take control the government of the United States because you know he had been through so many situations you know and by the way that that's why Canada taped the White House I don't think he taped the White House because he felt that everybody had bailed on him after the Bay of Pigs that they were all blaming him for what had happened and it really wasn't his fault so he said you guys are not going to didn't even tell him nothing but you're not going to do this anymore because I'm taping every conversation okay I'm going to know what really happened all right and when I'm out of here we're gonna hear about it so that's why he put the taping system in I didn't know not ya know so is that true I have to fact-check oh by the way he can't talk about that special but he can't talk about another movie called Ukraine on the fire which he was one of the executive producers on and if you haven't seen an unfortunate movie hasn't got a national release yet at least not that I know okay you know but that's a really good analysis of how the United States Press has completely distorted you know what went on in the Ukraine and Crimea all right and and if you get a chance YouTube can you skate you will see I think they're going out why soon okay good enter platform Ukraine on fire yes yeah all right what what about Snowden I mean we have the whole debate on Snowden being a patriot or a traitor we course know the attitude of the national security establishment [Music] one of reaction you met yeah obviously met him personally he tell us a little bit about him as a person and mr. Snowden he was very this is the movie as

[00:28:01 \(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0ynBm9uAAM&t=1681s>\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0ynBm9uAAM&t=1681s)

Snowden he was very this is the movie as a result the movie is the result of his information this is his interpretation he talked to us nine different times we went to Moscow I did most of all but he he won't you know it's his right to get the story right from his point of view now I've said that in the beginning this is Snowden's point of view this is not the NSA point of view you have to recognize that so they would see this story completely differently and say it's it's made up so you all we can do is we don't know what really happened but I after having spent a lot of time with him I certainly don't believe he's an actor I believe that Snowden told us the story to the best of his knowledge so this is the movie of and I and through him is how I got to know mr. P because I went I ran into him at an event a social event in Moscow he was he was painting the patron for a theater group of old-time 1960s country tales for theater folk tales kind of thing very interesting I didn't speak Russian language with two and a half hours fell asleep and waiting for him in the back and I got to meet him in the back back room of the theater where he was I asked him you know very

nicely about you know he knew I was doing Snowden there and not in Moscow but in Germany and I asked him some questions and his answers were surprising to me I won't tell him what I won't tell you what they are but if you want if you gear in on our two you will see his discussion with me about Snowden very interesting stuff from a different point of view and certainly talks about the US Russia diplomacy on the anant diplomacy policies on extradition which is very important to this case because there have been so many Russian criminals that have taken off from the Russia with money state money or embezzled money and landed in other countries so this is a

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landed in other countries so this is a big issue for them too well pardon me for revealing what might be in one of your state secrets but I did hear and I may be leaking something unauthorized but that a trailer to this this Putin interview series is that all of our ass Putin that look your ex KGB I mean you're like national escape state par excellence national security state parks wants yet here's a guy who has revealed secrets to the u.s. national security state how can you consider him a patriot and I think that he answers it is which may be a reason to watch the the series okay we're gonna I'm going to change the format if I call on you all I ask is that you not make a speech that you just asked the question and okay I'll start with you sir and then I'll go to you here in the in the front 57 years with Israel and the Zionist movement has been detrimental to American national security I know it's a subject Jimmy you have to listen thank you thank you grab the microphone listen let's start with a compilation of facts first glass okay my ID look um Jim okay if you if you talk to these guys in the CIA in the State Department and if

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the CIA in the State Department and if you did what I did in a comparative analysis they'll tell you that Kennedy was the last president who really wanted to stop Israel from getting the bomb okay he didn't think there should be any atomic weapons in the Middle East at all and he was absolutely furious when he found out that they were lying to him and he said I will do everything I can to obstruct this weapons program from here on in all right he Kennedy had a really close friendship with Gamal Abdel Nasser all right who he admired very much because he thought being a secular to secularists and being a socialist that he could channel the Middle East into a more modern world and more modern framework all right and so he had a well how close they were when when Nasser got the news that Kennedy was killed he went into a month-long depression and he demanded that Kennedy's funeral be shown four times on national television all right because he knew was going to be the end of an era and of course he breaks relations with with the USA I think in 1966 all right but Kennedy wanted to build that framework with what he perceived as being the moderates in the Middle East because in a second administration he was going to move for a solution of the Palestinian problem all right and once the last time anybody say anything like that all right but but that's and this by the way I there's a I can't take credit for this angry robert rakove has a very interesting book called Kennedy Johnson and the non-aligned world which is an excellent analysis of that whole subject alright so those are those are my thoughts on it well with Jim I'll call you on a second but Jimmy

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Jim I'll call you on a second but Jimmy you reminded me of a big contribution that you made and you opened my eyes to and that is it I said in my talk to Kennedy was a standard cold warrior mostly but you pointed out that in terms of these third-world nationalist movements the anti-colonialist movements they were perceived to be pro-communist because they they were gaining independence from the Western powers that you showed that Kennedy was really sympathetic to those movements the most important person if you want to understand who you can just give a little background I was in that school also one day I'm in this bookstore in this little town called Julian uh which is outside of Mount Palomar and I'm on a vacation I go in this bookstore and I see the cover of this book called JFK or deal in Africa and on the cover of that book is the very famous picture of Kennedy getting the news Lumumba death alright and if you haven't seen the picture Kennedy has his hand over his face and he's weeping but he's getting the news of the movement and I'm thinking what is

guy doing crying over the death of a black revolutionary in Africa who the hell I mean Johnson wouldn't do that yeah I don't know wouldn't do I mean I remember tried to kill him alright alright and so and so I said how the heck did that happen and to understand that reaction you have to go back to a guy named Edmund Goolagong who was the state department official in Saigon in 1951 and Kennedy had a brief relationship with him in the United States alright and so when he went to Saigon he sought him out and they had this meeting at the top of this outdoor restaurant and he asked him are we on the right side of this thing are we going to win and goo Leon says there's no way in the world Francis gloom in this form because

00:36:02 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0ynBm9uAAM&t=2162s>)

world Francis gloom in this form because Ho Chi Minh has fired up these young Viet men to the point that they would rather die than go back under the yoke of colonialism all right France will never win a war of attrition because the homefront will never support it now you take that and put in the 1965 and somebody should have told that to Johnson you're going to lose this country in this crazy warrior running that you can never win you know and that's why I use that quote to close it because see you can't anyone ever sub dab unless he had met boolean or' and he was open-minded enough to actually take that it was really a transformational experience for him and I tried to figure that out too I go why would he be so impacted by this guy and then I stumbled across a conversation that Kennedy had with Nehru the leader of India and Nehru is lecturing him on the evils of colonialism and Kennedy puts up his hand and says stop it nobody has to tell me about colonialism I come from a people who are colonized for 800 years all right and he was talking about the British in Ireland so that's why it hit home with him but would the way that it did okay yes sir as I remember from February 15 - from June 15 2015 2 February 2017 right after the election however I want to ask you something about JFK that you obviously got a lot of adverse reaction from the mainstream and yet and yet you were responsible

00:38:00 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0ynBm9uAAM&t=2280s>)

and yet and yet you were responsible that movie is specifically the blurb at the end of the movie the talks about all the secrecy of the records that movie was responsible for this monumental law of the JFK assassination Records Act that has been so instrumental in helping us to understand the nature of the neck security state especially during the Cold War operation Northwoods curious to what your reaction is to this horrible attacks that you were receiving but at the same time knowing that you had achieved something positive here it's a tough question at something for about autobiography maybe in terms of in terms of my career it hurt my career in many ways yes although my name is recognizable certainly hurt my career no question about it I could argue that in the book but the condemnation made me feel bad personally because I had always been quiet in my nature who's never sought out to be controversial at all I was shy in school and remained so and very much a conformist my life is mixed up it's a mixed bag so all the attacks did hurt and they scarred me the the truth of the legislation of which I'm supposed to be proud is that it was really legislation that was passed in reaction to the film in order for Congress to deny that I was on the right trail so the idea was we'll dump a lot of papers it'll be so confused you know you know over in ten years whatever it was it will take and then people will forget all about it which is what they do with 9/11 which is what they do with pretty much any investigation and hopefully the Russian investigation will end up somewhere in that mess of American Society hysteria so anyway that was so at the time it was interred I tried I tried to be strong and I kept going I never looked back in the next movie I made it's very interesting right away I turned around and made a classical movie about a Vietnamese

00:40:01 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0ynBm9uAAM&t=2401s>)

classical movie about a Vietnamese peasant woman lady Hayslip who wrote two beautiful books about between heaven and earth about her experience it was called heaven and earth with Tommy Lee Jones and a beautiful young actress called hipty Lee from Vietnam my founder Joan Chen was in it and it's you I still love it's one of my favorites it's very emotional and she goes between two cultures of the enemies and the American between communist capitalist between she lives during the war both sides spying not spying

almost killed exit and then she's tortured so it's interesting all the torture all women refugees or villages she ends up in the United States with a American American special ops guy who has a dark past he doesn't he's a hero but then as we find out he turns into a darker man from the like many American War veterans at that time we're having real problems still do we're having real problems suicides anyway it goes to that place for both societies America and America is corrupted by that war is corrupted by the Vietnam War the callousness comes back to America and I love that contrast and it was very daring critical and of course died at the box office you know before to his credit he answered every single one of those attacks on his movie and if I'm correct about this they didn't want you to answer the larger thing you had to threaten to take out an ad because they just didn't want to run anything by you in response no the it was quite a defensive amatory article there was other ones too but the Lardner piece I got on the phone I was Frank mankiewicz was my advisor he had been Bobby Kennedy's press secretary so he was humility was doing but he felt we should respond and when I called Ben Bradlee at the Washington Post he took my call finally and you know acted like he hated

[00:42:03 \(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0ynBm9uAAM&t=2523s>\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0ynBm9uAAM&t=2523s)

finally and you know acted like he hated me without seeing knowing me he hated me because he was a good friend of Jack Kennedy and obviously did not believe in anything of this nature or knew whatever I didn't sense that there was any so larger had was his national security correspondent was a vulture had has a history of defending American interventions all over the world very good at it you know his past better than me Nicaragua probably Guatemala anyway so the point is that the Washington Post was they still are what do you who we kidding here where is the why she didn't post it I mean it doesn't matter who owns it it's it's an institution that keeps running on its and it's how the petrel of law they had to we fought with them we tuile we'd say we're going to buy a [__] page and we're going to run this whole [__] thing and we're going to embarrass the [__] out of you for not publishing the only way you works with these guys they are tough and they're nasty they know it and they're giving them a very tough world who wants to be a newspaper man you know how miserable it is it's a tough job jealousy rivalry getting the scoop doesn't matter what's the truth what matters is the scoop what matters is them is the attention paid the circulation so it becomes a cynical business as bad as advertising the hucksters they called them in those days in the 50s right ray would you say anything else ray you want something to add on that you remember the Washington Post in those days the you served Amman because they were making themselves big heroes after Woodward and Bernstein worth it I mean anybody I mean it was it's part of that front you know it was a big big publicity for the newspaper business and what happened is mark what's the owner Katherine Graham according to this book this new book had such a bad reaction to the liberality of the 70s that she cracked down in the 80s

[00:44:00 \(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0ynBm9uAAM&t=2640s>\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0ynBm9uAAM&t=2640s)

the 70s that she cracked down in the 80s and went conservative with the post so you served in Vietnam did you ever go back oh yeah I went back many times yes I was especially for ladies book so how was that I went back from Eli I went to me though I was going to do a movie in 2007 we were two weeks from making it actually to three weeks we built the whole village we had art we had all the extras picked everything was there it was in Thailand but it was a Vietnamese tribal group that had spoke very something very close to the Vietnamese language it's interesting what was it like after you gone there Eli me Eliza Vietnam after you'd gone there I got a presume as an officer and I was not alone personally spec for people there must been some kind of emotional reaction to come back to the country no well by that time I had done platoon born fourth of July no platoon at least now I gotten it out of my system I think with that movie you know I didn't I'm lucky in that sense I was able to exercise some of those problems I had problems I didn't know they were problems when I came back yeah and I still do I don't feel quite integrated into this society because the society reminds me of the army and there's a corruption and a lie and a level of lives in the army as you know any of you who've served as in any bureaucracy and it's so frustrating because most of the good men in the army do get cut out and they don't make it to the top they have ideas they're bold they're initiative they got guts they take chances you lose sometimes you don't see those guys become Chiefs of Staff five stars and all that and those are the guys who did not known as brain scientists when you see Joseph Dunford

testifying in front of Congress talking about Russia's the biggest threat in United States look in his eyes to study his eyes I'm as a dramatist you can see there's a deadness a time nobody's talking about it's a blank he learned his lines brainwashing he looks like a Korean War prisoner war the new guy mattis scares

00:46:01 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0ynBm9uAAM&t=2761s>)

prisoner war the new guy mattis scares me Maximus is very striking looking he gets your attention he's a dominant man he walked in the room and you got to agree because he talks in that voice I'm sure arm twists very well this is our problem we go with a military solution is where all anyone knows this now we're how many bases do we have how many bases were array I don't know 800 yeah every base looks like wonton ammo okay we got a few more minutes you my son wrote a book what was it oh I'm terrible at titles onion I think that was an interesting time though I began to feel that the left was no longer though what I thought the left was I you know when they started to go with a Warren Commission you know you want you wonder if they're thinking because I always thought that the left were thinking more about these issues and I and I think it started to change my point of view that there were no allies here and I think the same thing happened you know what's going on right now the real left the ones that really have a heart and compassion and don't believe in wars and interventions and we have to be muscular in all this those people are still there but there are an unspoken my they don't have a voice they don't have that organization because the

00:48:00 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0ynBm9uAAM&t=2880s>)

don't have that organization because the real the fake left has taken over and with with the Clintons and it really starts with the Clintons and perhaps at the end of the Carter era but it really was pervasive in the Obama era and when they got every president to get up there and make a speech about Vietnam and what an honorable Ward is and why we were doing Vietnam for peace and democracy and that dialogue that script is old it's outdated but they still use it is there another script in preparation I guess ray you know there's another script that they have I hate to be the bearer of bad news but we're out of time for today's program and I will say that over the years those of you that are familiar with the Future Freedom Foundation know that we have we have employed people of all ideological persuasions to speak at our conferences Glenn Greenwald has been a very prominent played a very prominent role in our programs and our college tours and we've had a lot of liberals and conservatives speak at our libertarian conferences and we've been criticized for this and we have my answer has always been the same is that what matters to me is what they're saying as long as there's that what they're saying mirrors what I'm saying we're on the same page and one of the one of the books that I read as a kid was John Kennedy's Profile in Courage and Kennedy was a big role model for me when I was a kid I campaigned for Kennedy in the 1960 election I actually went to the Lyndon Johnson ranch and for a barbecue and met Lyndon Johnson shook hands with him not proud of that but I never got to meet Kennedy but but Kennedy was it was a big thing for me when I was growing up as a kid my dad was a Democrat in South Texas and one of my favorite books was profiles and courage and it was about people that had stood up to their with their convictions no matter how how high

00:50:01 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0ynBm9uAAM&t=3001s>)

their convictions no matter how how high the price they paid for standing up for those convictions and without in mine Oliver we have we've commissioned a work of art for you and in the future Freedom Foundation has is Jack Frazier here jack santé be jet Jack is a noted artist in and in Annapolis his work is being shown at a big gallery in Annapolis right now his his works also been shown in galleries in Washington in Virginia and we have commissioned him to do an oil painting of John Kennedy for you and this is the pencil rendering that has been done by Jack Frazier and the oil painting will be done based on that that is for you and all Cana will detect you almost as good as the one in the I really don't know I don't know does anyone know who painted that in that plane I just would like to ask if there's a Philip geraldi here until you come and see me is he here yeah Philip geraldi yeah he was here earlier Philip they're here in the back can I talk to you for

a minute and rave you can come and Ray McGovern too and so thank you Oliver for the work that you've done over the years been so inspiring thank you for coming to this conference thank our speakers and this may be the journey [Applause] [Music]

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